

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

AID-20 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 COME-00 CEA-02 RSR-01

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R 200917Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6747

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8303

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EGEN, MASS, RP

SUBJECT: GOP CONTINUES TO URGE PACKAGE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MANILA 7516

1. IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROD USG TOWARD EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF RENEGOTIATION OF BOTH SECURITY AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, PHIL GOVT HAS TIGHTENED THE SCREW ANOTHER TURN BY FORMALLY INVOKING PRESIDENT MARCOS' NAME.

2. IN A PERSONAL LETTER WRITTEN IN STILTED AND MOST FORMAL FASHION BUT NOT PARTAKING OF CHARACTER OF ANOTE, FONSEC ROMULO SAID ON JULY 18: " I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PRESIDENT FERDINAND E. MARCOS TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO NOTE VERBALE NO 73-1743 DATED 25 JUNE 1973 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO START TALKS NOT ONLY ON THE LAURGEL-LANGLEY AGREEMENT BUT ALSO ON ALL OUR MILITARY TREATIES WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE WISHES TO CONVEY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS READY TO BEGIN THESE TALKS AND

SUGGESTS THAT THEY START IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR".

3. I HAVE RESPONDED AD INTERIM WITH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REFERRING TO EMBASSY'S PRIOR NOTE (TEXT REFTEL) AND ASKING THAT ROMULO CONVEY TO MARCOS ASSURANCE THAT FULL LANGUAGE OF HIS CURRENT LETTER BEING TRANSMITTED AT ONCE TO DEPARTMENT, AS IN THE PREVIOUS INSTANCE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO KNOW SURELY WHETHER THESE RECENT AGITATIONS REPRESENT PRIMARILY AN EFFORT TO BUILD A WRITTEN RECORD FOR FUTURE USE OR WHETHER THEY REPRESENT A GENUINE HEIGHTENED CONCERN AT THE SHRINKING TIME AVAILABLE FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ALL AGREEMENTS GOP DESIRES PRIOR TO JULY 1974 EXPIRATION OF LAUREL-LANGLEY. I HAVE NOT SOUGHT A PRIVATE SESSION WITH MARCOS SINCE DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR BYROADE, IN ABSENCE OF IMPORTANT WORD TO CONVEY ON THIS OR OTHER SUBJECTS. NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE HAD FREQUENT CONTACT AT SOCIAL AND CEREMONIAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING SHARING SMALL LUNCHEON TABLE TWICE DURING PAST WEEK, AND HAVE BEEN A LITTLE SURPRISED THAT ON NONE OF THESE OCCASIONS HAS MARCOS TAKEN ME ASIDE TO TALK OR RAISED THE NEGOTIATIONS QUESTION. (ONLY SUBSTANTIVE MATTER HE HAS RAISED, IN FACT, WAS REQUEST LAST SATURDAY EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF AMMUNITION OF TWO TYPES, TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A PARTIAL RESPONSE).

5. SIMILARLY, I HAVE SEEN GENERAL ROMULO FREQUENTLY, FINDING HIM CONSISTENTLY AMIABLE AND SEEMINGLY RELAXED. HE MADE NO MENTION OF LETTER ABOVE AT RECEPTION ON DAY HE SIGNED IT OR AT HIS OWN DINNER FOR THAI DEPUTY FONMIN CHATCHAI LAST EVENING, NOR HAVE I.

6. WE BELIEVE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THERE IS AN ELEMENT AT LEAST OF IMPATIENCE FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S ARRIVAL (IN HOPES THAT OUR PERIOD OF INACTION WILL END) AND OF DEEPENING CONCERN THAT TIME IS SLIPPING AWAY. SEPTTEL ON RECENT VISIT OF PANAM BOARD CHAIRMAN SEAWELL WILL INDICATE THAT DRIVE FOR REVIEW/RENEGOTIATION OF ALL MAJOR AGREEMENT CONTINUES UNABATED AND THAT MARCOS HAS NOW LINKED CIVAIR DISCUSSIONS EXPLICITLY TO THE "PACKAGE". WE CANNOT NOW TELL HOW FIRM
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THAT IS OR WHETHER MARCOS SIMPLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PANAM CONCERNS IN AN EFFORT TO ADD PRIVATE PRESSURES ON USG TO HIS OWN, TO MOVE AHEAD MORE SMARTLY.

7. WE PLAN TO LET DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS REST, BARRING FURTHER NEEDLING FROM GOP SIDE, UNTIL AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN IS HERE. WE ARE, HOWEVER, IN FINAL REVIEW OF DRAFT TEXT OF AER TREATY, WHICH I HOPE TO SEND TO DEPARTMENT

ABOUT MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.
HAMILTON

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NNN

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